

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 08835 011310Z

54

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 DRC-01 /094 W
----- 095830

R 011136Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6723

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8835

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, CB

SUBJECT: GKR SUSPENDS THREE PRIVATE NEWSPAPERS

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 6932

B. PHNOM PENH 1741 (KHMER REPORT 2/5/74)

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE RELIABLE, THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ON JUNE 29 SUSPENDED THREE PRIVATE NEWSPAPERS. THE SUSPENSIONS ARE FOR ONE MONTH, THE MAXIMUM THE MINISTRY CAN UNILATERALLY IMPOSE WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE COURTS.

2. THE GROUNDS FOR THE SUSPENSIONS WERE ARTICLES JUDGED TO BE DAMAGING TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND MILITARY MORALE AND AIMED AT INCITING OPINION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, ALL OF WHICH CONSTITUTE OFFENSES UNDER THE EXISTING PRESS CODE. THE ARTICLES IN QUESTION NAMED AND ACCUSED A FANK GENERAL OF STEALING RICE, DEMANDED TO KNOW WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE KILLING LAST JANUARY OF FOUR STUDENTS WHO WERE UNDER MILITARY DETENTION AT THE TIME OF THEIR DEATHS (REF B), AND CRITICIZED THE MOTIVES OF BOTH GKR AND KC LEADERS PERPETUATING THE WAR.

3. OTHER PAPERS HAVE EDITORIALY PROTESTED THE SUSPENSION DECISION, SAYING THAT THE PENALTY IS TOO SEVERE FOR A FIRST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 08835 011310Z

OFFENSE AND ASKING THE MINISTRY TO RECONSIDER THE LENGTH

OF THE SUSPENSIONS.

4. COMMENT. THE SUSPENSIONS APPEAR TO BE MORE A WARNING TO JOURNALISTS NOT TO STRAY TOO FAR FROM THE FOLD THAN AN ATTEMPT TO CURB PRESS "EXCESSES." BY KHMER STANDARDS, THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PRIVATE PRESS SINCE ITS RE-EMERGENCE IN LATE MAY (REF A) HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED. SOME OF THE ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED ARE LEGITIMATE ONES, FURTHERMORE, NOTABLY THE QUESTION OF BRINGING TO TRIAL THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE KILLING OF THE FOUR STUDENTS. THE GKR HAS DRAGGED ITS HEELS ON THIS CASE FOR THE PAST FIVE MONTHS. END COMMENT.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, POLICIES, EMERGENCY PLANNING, THE PRESS, NEWSPAPERS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM08835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740174-0200
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740784/aaaactxo.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. PHNOM PENH 6932
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GKR SUSPENDS THREE PRIVATE NEWSPAPERS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005